



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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DEL RIO MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN COCAINE-FOR-HAND GRENADES CASE

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 28-year-old Alvaro Larios of Del Rio, Texas, faces a mandatory minimum of 30 years in federal prison after admitting to trading two ounces of powder cocaine for 15 hand grenades.

Appearing before United States Magistrate Judge Nancy Stein Nowak yesterday, Larios pleaded guilty to one count of possession of a destructive device in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

During the last two weeks of December 2005, Larios contacted an undercover agent, believing that the agent was an illegal arms merchant, on several occasions and left messages for the agent to call him back. On January 19, 2006, the agent called Larios during which time Larios requested that the agent provide him with 30 grenades and some AK-47 rifles for his "people in Mexico." During the week of February 20-24, 2006, Larios again contacted the agent requesting hand grenades. On February 28, 2006, the agent agreed to provide 15 hand grenades to Larios in exchange for two ounces of cocaine. On March 1, 2006, Larios delivered two ounces of cocaine, approximately 56.7 grams, to the agent in exchange for 15 hand grenades.

Larios, who remains in federal custody, is expected to be sentenced in December by United States District Xavier Rodriguez.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Assistant United States Attorneys Mark Roomberg and Don Calvert prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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